

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03552 122056Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 889

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3552

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT?

1. REPORTS FROM KARACHI JOURNALISTS ALLEGE THAT SETTLEMENT OF POLITICAL CRISIS HAS BEEN REACHED AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS TERMS MAY BE IMMINENT. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, BHUTTO WILL STEP DOWN, AND PERHAPS LEAVE THE COUNTRY. A POSSIBLE DESTINATION UNDER CONSIDERATION IS SAID TO BE THE U.S.
2. IT IS NOW THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IN PAKISTAN AND WE HAVE NO WAY OF VERIFYING THESE REPORTS. WE KNOW ONLY THAT BHUTTO REMAINED IN LAHORE TODAY AND THAT SOME OF HIS CLOSEST POLITICAL ADVISERS WERE THERE WITH HIM. JOURNALIST SOURCES ASSERT THAT THE SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN IMPOSED BY THE ARMY CORPS COMMANDERS IN LAHORE AND KARACHI, WITH ACQUIESCENCE OF MORE SENIOR OFFICERS, AND THAT TERMS OF SETTLEMENT MAY PROVIDE FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN A MILITARY REGIME.
3. WE WILL REPORT SOONEST IN THE MORNING IF WE ARE ABLE TO VERIFY ANY OF FOREGOING. BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT?
TAGS: PINT, PK
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